



Workforce Alliance (WA) Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Workforce Alliance (WA) Board met in person at the Wichita Workforce Center and virtually via Zoom. Chair Alana McNary called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions.

2. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received.

3. Wichita Workforce Center Remodel Update

The WA completed moving administrative offices from the Garvey Center downtown to the Workforce Center in March. An update was provided on the remodel project at the Workforce Center.

- Construction is progressing well; security upgrades, offices, and conference space underway.
- Projected completion is early to mid-May.
- ADA sliding doors have extended lead times; installation will occur post-construction.
- Staff will share photos of progress with the board.
- Butler County (El Dorado) Workforce Center
 - Decision made to end the current lease after long-term operation.
 - WA is exploring lower-cost options to maintain a physical presence, including partnerships with the El Dorado Chamber / El Dorado Inc. or public library.
- The goal is to minimize costs while maintaining accessibility.

Report was received and filed.

4. National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum 2026

Board members Alana McNary and Cheryl Childers and staff Keith Lawing and Amanda Duncan will attend the annual National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum in March and discussed some highlights and takeaways from the event.

- Key themes:
 - AI and workforce implications
 - Youth engagement (“Youth are 25% of the population, 100% of the future”)
 - Board effectiveness and storytelling of what the workforce development system does.
 - Library partnerships as access points
- Emphasis on improving communication of Workforce Alliance’s impact and success stories.

Report was received and filed.

5. State Proposed Training Expenditure Policy

The WA provided comments on a policy proposed by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the KansasWorks State Workforce Board that could have unintended consequences to “One-Stop” operations and support for skills training opportunities.

- WA policy comments stressed:
 - WIOA funds support operations
 - Significant training is funded through leveraged, non-WIOA sources
- State Workforce Board deferred action after reviewing public comments. Follow-up meeting scheduled for June 2.
- Potential Statewide Workforce System Consolidation
 - Discussion of possible move to a single statewide system.
 - Strong opposition expressed due to risk of reduced local responsiveness and funding leverage.

- Board encouraged proactive outreach to gubernatorial candidates and legislators.
Report was received and filed.

6. **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Memorandum of Understanding for Required Partners**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WIOA the WA and WIOA mandated partners is expiring and is in the process of being renewed for PY26.

- The current agreement expires June 30, 2026.
- Executive Committee reviewed and approved the updated MOU draft for public comment at its April meeting.

B.J. Moore (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve publication of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) One Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for public comment. Motion adopted.

7. **Revenue Generation Task Force Update**

A task force was formed to help coordinate the annual Jobs FORE Youth golf tournament and develop other ways to generate additional funding outside of the WA's federal program allocations. An update on task force discussions was provided.

- Annual Jobs for Youth Golf Tournament on September 14, 2026 at Willowbend Golf Club
 - Changes for 2026
 - Increase team cost to approximately \$850
 - Add bundled sponsorship options
 - Limit to 32 teams
- Additional Revenue Ideas Discussed
 - Team-building events (stadium batting cages, pickleball, cornhole)
 - Gala or recognition-based event
 - Youth-focused fundraising concept
 - Lunch & Learn series
 - Facility rentals and enhanced fee-for-service models
- Task Force will return with recommendations at the July board meeting.

Report was received and filed.

8. **Community Impact Projects Updates**

Keith Lawing provided a review of current WA projects.

- Kaufmann Returning Citizen Consortium (RCC) Planning Grant (renamed Kansas Restorative & Opportunity Network (KRON))
 - The WA with its workforce board counterpart in Kansas City, Workforce Partnership, submitted an application to the Kauffman Foundation on a plan to improve employment support for justice-involved individuals (JII)/Returning Citizens.
 - A decision is expected soon and if awarded, the grant would begin in July 2026 to assist JII in the Wichita and Kansas City area gain employment and provide services to address barriers to employment. A one-page summary of the program was provided to the Committee for review.
 - The WA in partnership with the Wichita Chamber Advisory Board will host an outreach event on May 15, 2026 at the Workforce Center to educate employers about the program. Board members are invited to attend and an invitation will go out soon.
- Youth Employment Project (YEP) - The WA was a partner in a regional career exploration and job fair occurred on April 22nd at Century II. 40 area high schools were invited to bring seniors to the event to talk to employers about jobs and sophomores to meet with employers to explore career options. 80 employers from different industry sectors were anticipated with thousands of students expected.
- Home Base Wichita (HBW) – The program designed to keep service members and their families in

the region once they separate from the military is still active, but there are funding issues. Staff are working with the Wichita Chamber's Military Affairs Committee on ways to align programs.

- EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant – This two year, \$500,000 USDOL grant funds training for environmental related careers continues to receive referrals and applications.
- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) This three year, \$500,000 USDOL program helps unhoused veterans find meaningful employment. The program is receiving an increase in referrals.
- Child Care Employer Solutions Summit – In partnership with a local coalition, events have been held to bring employers, policy leaders, and community partners together to develop actionable solutions that address childcare challenges in the community. The next event tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2026 will include a speaker that is an employer currently working within a child care tri-share model. The goal is to gain community support and obtain policymaker involvement.

Report was received and filed.

9. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of meeting minutes from January 28, 2026, budget update for program year 2025, LWDB Executive Committee actions since the board meeting, Workforce Center operations and one-stop operator update and WA program reports (Fair Chance, Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and Communications) were presented to the Board for review and approval. A new federal reimbursement RA program (\$3,500 per apprentice) has been implemented to incentivize employers to create and maintain RA's. As an intermediary, the WA has just executed its first contract under this model and receives 10%.

Scott Stiles (Robyn Heinz) moved to approve the action items recommended in the Consent agenda. Motion adopted.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17.

Attendees

Present LWDB Members

- Dr. Tamara Daniel via Zoom
- Robyn Heinz
- Eric Hunt via Zoom
- Pat Jonas via Zoom
- Alana McNary
- Brian Miles via Zoom
- B.J. Moore
- Alex Munoz via Zoom
- Erica Ramos
- Chip Schellhorn
- Dr. Michelle Schoon via Zoom
- Sally Stang via Zoom
- Scott Stiles
- Dr. Sheree Utash via Zoom
- Lisa Whitley via Zoom

Guests & Staff

- Keith Lawing
- Shirley Lindhorst
- Chad Pettera
- Tyrone Baker, YMCA via Zoom
- Peter Bodyk, DCF via Zoom
- Susanne Murphy, SPEEA